

Town of Blacksburg

Memo

TO: Town of Blacksburg

FROM: Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

DATE: April 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Update – March 2026

The Administrator's Report is published each month for the Town of Blacksburg citizens to remain informed of Town activities and updates. This report is also provided at each regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information at shane@townofblacksburg.com or 864-839-2332.

1. Water System Improvements – Principal Forgiveness Grant

Construction has started on the Cherokee Street water line replacement project, and it is progressing well. This project is part of the \$1,500,000 State Revolving Fund Project that the Town was awarded to replace aged infrastructure along Cherokee St.

2. Streetscape Project – SCDOT TAP Grant (W. Cherokee Street Phase)

The Town is moving forward with the \$700,510 SCDOT TAP Grant, which includes 15% of the required 20% match, to fund the first portion of the Streetscape Masterplan on the south side of W. Cherokee Street between Shelby and Rutherford Streets.

3. ARC and CDBG Grant Activity – N. Shelby Street Phase

The Town learned in December that it has been awarded a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$951,952 for a portion of the N. Shelby St phase of the Streetscape Master Plan Project. An ARC Grant application was submitted on January 30, 2026. This application is planned to complement the CDBG grant that was awarded in December. Town Council has awarded the Engineering Contract for this combined project to Seamon Whiteside. The Town Administrator, the Appalachian Council of Governments, and staff from the S.C. Department of Commerce participated in a kickoff meeting in March.

4. Comprehensive Water System Assessment – RIA Grant

Work continues with the approved engineering firm on the \$250,000 Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant (no matching funds required) to conduct a complete System Assessment Plan for the Town's water system. The Town Administrator has been meeting weekly to evaluate the next phases of the study. This project is expected to last for several more months, developing a report evaluating any deficiencies and providing improvements to the water system.

6. Community Involvement & Outreach

The Town Administrator, Shane Childers, participated in mock interviews for juniors at Blacksburg High School. The students that were interviewed by the Town Administrator were impressive and have bright futures ahead of them. The Town Administrator, as a member of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail stakeholder team, participated in a kickoff meeting to help guide the engineering study representing the section of the trail from Lake Whelchel to Kings Mountain.

7. Event Planning

The Town was able to announce in March that the Grammy-winning band Shenandoah will be in concert for the Red, White, & You event on June 27th. First Solar is the presenting sponsor for this event, and the Town is working in partnership with The Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, the Blacksburg Business Association and Hollywood Production to bring this event to Blacksburg.

8. Public Works Department Update

Public Works staff continue routine maintenance and repair activities involving the Town's water system, parks, streets, and general roadway infrastructure.

9. Police Department Activity

364 Calls for service in March 2026

10. Fire Department Activity

82 Calls for service in March 2026

11. FY26 Budget Progress

The Town completed the 12th Period of FY26. The Town has spent approximately 83.09% of the FY26 amended budget of \$3,930,776.